The Pulse

NEWS of the NEW ENGLAND DEACONESS HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES

Volume 5, No. 5 May 1950

Graduation 1950

Fifty-five Seniors Receive Diplomas in Alumni Auditorium, Northeastern University

A calendar of events spreading over more than a week is the schedule for this year's graduating class from the Deaconess School of Nursing. Beginning with the annual reception and dance, held this year in the Dorothy Quincy Suite of the John Hancock Building, Friday, May 12, our 1950 Juniors and Seniors — one of the largest graduating classes in the fifty-four history of the Nursing School — will have received their diplomas by the time this issue of THE PULSE appears in print. Also, they will have had their last official get-together with faculty members, at the Class Supper, Thursday, May 18, at the Hotel Beaconsfield.

Climaxing these many events are, of course, the Graduation Exercises, held Tuesday evening, May 16, this year in the beautifully decorated Alumni Auditorium of Northeastern University. Following an address by J. Wendell Yeo, Ph.D., professor of Education at Boston University, whose subject was: "I.Q.'s That Count Most," the diplomas were presented by Mr. E. G. Howes, President of the Board of Trustees. Dr. Elliott P. Joslin gave the annual Charge to the Class and Miss Margaret M. Shrader, Principal, reported on the progress of the School.

THE BOSTON JUBILEE

The Boston Chamber of Commerce, together with numerous commercial organizations and societies, is staging a five-day gala exposition of the City.

The hospitals and medical schools for which Boston is famous will be included and Friday, May 19, is the day on which they will be emphasized.

Most hospitals in the area did without the customary observance of National Hospital Day, postponing their plans a week in order to tie in with the Jubilee.

With the help of the Volunteer Service, the Deaconess will be prepared to receive visitors throughout the day.

Bishop John Wesley Lord

Dr. Warren F. Cook presided at the ceremony and introduced the speakers.

St. Mark's Methodist Church in Brookline will be the scene Sunday of the impressive Baccalaureate Service for this year's graduating class. Dr. William R. Leslie, D.D., will conduct the service and Bishop John Wesley Lord, resident in the Boston Area of the Methodist Church, will preach the Baccalaureate Sermon entitled, "The Aristocracy of Service."

DEACONESS NIGHT AT THE POPS

Tonight is "Deaconess Night at the Pops." Mrs. John B. McKittrick, who is again Chairman of the Committee, has informed us that the concert this year will again feature a brilliant young pianist whose recent concert in New York's Town Hall was enthusiastically acclaimed by the critics. Many of the staff doctors and personnel of the Hospital have reserved tables for this annual gala occasion.

The Committee has been working very hard to make this year's "Pops" another big success. Many thanks to the four busy student nurses who so generously contributed posters — the Misses Carol Carr, Carolyn Olson (for that special poster in the Harris Hall dining room), Joan Pickering, and Nancy Zink.

DEACONESS DEPARTMENT HEADS ATTEND NATIONAL MEETINGS

In the last month, two of our department heads attended national meetings associated with hospital work. The first one, an Institute for Hospital Engineers, conducted by the A.H.A. was held at the Sheraton Hotel in St. Louis, Missouri, April 24-28, inclusive. The purpose of the Institute was to instruct representatives from member hospitals in the latest developments and techniques now being successfully applied in leading hospitals. The Institute was run in the form of classroom instruction and for those who succeeded in making the grade a diploma was awarded.

Mr. Donald L. Sabine, Superintendent of Maintenance, attended the week-long session and was amongst those to earn a diploma. This is not the first time he has done so, and, in fact, his office is decorated with no less than three such awards.

During the same week, in another part of the country, Mrs. Gertrude S. Jameson, Director of Social Service, attended the National Conference of Social Workers. This annual meeting was held in Atlantic City, N. J., April 24-29.

This is one of the most important of all conferences on Social Service and, in addition to the principle addresses, there were a number of institutes on various phases of the work being conducted by thousands of professionals in all parts of the country. We are looking forward to a full acount of the conference by Mrs. Jameson upon her return.

BOWLING LEAGUE FINALS

The Deaconess Bowling League met for the last time this year on Tuesday evening, May 9. The final team standings are:

No.	*Team*	*Captain*	*Points*
9	Solution Room	Miss Whittemore	80
2	Operating Room	Miss Brown	77
4	Housekeeping	Mr. Emery	74½
6	Purchasing	Mr. Chamberlin	68
8	Laundry	Miss Dennehy	63
10	Palmer Nurses	Miss Parker	63
5	Dietary	Miss Ross	62
1	Administration	Dr. Cook	61½
7	Deaconess Nurses	Miss Churchill	57
3	Engineering	Mr. Sabine	51

The Pulse

MAY, 1950

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of the
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Herbert Robinson — Constance Sellman

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NOT SO LONG AGO . . .

A few years ago, working conditions in the average hospital were not nearly as pleasant as they are today. Here are some of the steps taken by the Deaconess for the benefit of all employees:

1. If paydays fell on Sundays or holidays, we were paid the following days. Now, we are paid in advance.

2. The check-cashing service on paydays used to cost ten cents. Now, it is free.

3. Neither time nor facilities were provided for morning or afternoon refreshments. Both are now provided.

4. Employees carrying Blue Cross used to pay the entire cost. Now, the hospital pays half the expense.

Many other changes have taken place in recent years in the interest of the employees. Those listed above are some of the ones affecting all of us.

INTERNATIONAL FLAVOR

By the way, did you know that, in addition to the patients we have each year from a variety of countries, scarcely a day goes by without the presence of distinguished doctors and students of advanced medicine from abroad, witnessing the daily procedures of this hospital?

Work will be starting very soon on our new buildings, resulting in the improvement of services and expansion of facilities. One of the innovations will be the construction of an auditorium in the Cancer Research Institute, something our Staff doctors have longed to have for many years.

This addition will make it possible for the Deaconess to accommodate a great many more visiting doctors than before; it will be of inestimable help to our training school for nurses, and will surely preserve that "international flavor."

PULSE SKIPS TWO BEATS

Owing to the fact that so many employees (including THE PULSE reporters) will be taking their annual vacations during the months of July and August, it has been decided that THE PULSE will not make its appearance during these months.

Department of the Month

LIBRARY SERVICES

By MRS. BERYL B. PAINE, *Librarian*

The Hospital Library, like all Gaul, is divided in three parts: the Medical, Patients', and Nursing School Libraries. This article is really concerned only with the two latter, since the Medical Library is a collection of books and periodicals for use of staff doctors, serviced each week by Mrs. Ethel Strong Leonard of the Harvard Medical School Library staff.

The Patients' Library on Palmer 6 started with a small collection of books which was organized in 1934 into an effective library through the vision of Mrs. Gertrude S. Jameson who recognized the potential therapeutic value of books in aiding patient recovery. The first librarian was Miss Doris T. Bean, aided by students from Simmons, Gray Ladies, and other volunteers. From a part-time service, it progressed to a full-time basis, with book service to each of the ten floors of the three hospital units twice weekly with the traveling book-wagon, and frequent individual visits as new patients are referred to the librarian.

The Friends of the Deaconess supplied the book-wagon, and have continued to demonstrate their interest by gifts of books, periodical subscriptions, and other much appreciated items that have added to the effectiveness of the service. Red Cross Gray Ladies have been of invaluable assistance through the years, and, in turn, the Librarian has often been called on to give the lecture on Bibliotherapy which is an established part of the Gray Lady training course.

The Student Library in Harris Hall was reorganized in 1944 when Miss Margaret M. Shrader demonstrated the necessity for an adequate library in order to develop the educational program of the School of Nursing. A suitable room was created and beautifully decorated and furnished, and it was arranged that Mrs. Paine who had been Patients' Librarian since 1942 should assume responsibility for the unit.

Here today there are more than 1600 study and reference books on Nursing and allied subjects. The 200 students and Faculty use it constantly; many graduates and others find in it the stimulus for advanced study on nursing subjects.

Questions vary from requests about the history of the Deaconess, to "What is the meaning of NNC;" "Do you have anything about the diets of foreign nationalities?" Something about the requirements for Aviation Nurse; "Is Hodgson's disease the same as Hodgkins disease?"; "What about Hospitals in Alaska?" "Provisions of the Wagner-Murray-Dingell Bill." The Librarian is glad she has the resources of both libraries for the answering of questions, though distance between units complicates matters somewhat. Self-service — aided by signs — is often the rule when the librarian is in "the other" unit, or "out with the book-wagon," but the honor system prevails and borrowers usually leave the required record of books taken; in turn the librarian tries to locate answers to questions and give special service as called for.

In addition to the service to patients which is the first consideration of the librarian and assistants, the hospital personnel are invited to borrow books for their own use. They may find answers to many questions in the varied collection — nearly three thousand volumes — that is available. Sometimes, the call is for light fiction, or the latest best-sellers. The generous use of the small rental collection of new books helps to make new titles available to all.

TYPHOID SHOTS

The Health Coordinator has announced that during the first week in June two days will be set aside for employees to receive free typhoid immunization. The actual dates are not yet determined, but all departments will be informed as soon as possible.

Those who have had a typhoid shot within the last year should come in again for a "booster" shot. All others should make sure to get their shots at this time.

ON THE USES OF BLOOD

By DR. HAROLD B. KENTON

Blood, because of its many and varied applications, has been referred to as "the universal medicine." Blood is made up of solids (cells) suspended in a liquid (plasma) and as such is called *whole blood*. The most common use of blood is as whole blood, to replace blood lost or destroyed or to support a patient during a long operation.

We are able, by a very simple procedure, to separate the cells from the plasma and thus treat two patients instead of one. The cells may be given to a man suffering from anaemia; while another patient, who has been severely burned, receives only the plasma.

Scientists have now found ways of separating out several of its constituent parts, thereby multiplying many fold the uses of that original pint of whole blood.

The first of these plasma products is *serum albumin*. It accounts for approximately 50 per cent of all the protein in plasma and is a life-saving medicine in the treatment of shock, certain kidney diseases and malnutrition.

During the course of many infectious diseases, such as measles, scarlet fever and jaundice, the body produces substances called antibodies, which help to combat the invading virus. After the patient recovers, these antibodies remain in the blood and may give life-long protection against another attack of the same disease.

Now, we obtain from plasma still another protein called *gamma globulin* and it is in this fraction that we find concentrated all the antibodies which may previously have been formed. *Gamma globulin* is a valuable medicine. Its greatest use is in the prevention of measles, but it is also employed in the treatment of other virus infections.

Still another protein fraction isolated from plasma is one called *fibrinogen*. It plays a leading role in the clotting of blood and from it is made a spongy material, *fibrin foam*, which finds daily use in the operating room for the control of bleeding. Fibrinogen is also administered intravenously in the treatment of a rare blood disease in which the patient's own blood may be lacking in this important fraction.

Of practical importance in the procedure of transfusion are two substances found in the red blood cells. One of these is called A and the other B and they are responsible for the four groups into which all human bloods are divided. The groups are designated A, B, AB and O according to whether A, or B, or both A and B, or neither A nor B is present in the cells. Group O is called the "universal donor" because blood of this group may be safely given to anyone. However, alarming and often fatal reactions follow the administration of group A blood to a B patient or B blood to one of group A.

There are many other blood types but only one of these, namely Rh, is of major importance in transfusions. Rh is the designation for another factor found in red blood cells. Rh stands for Rhesus; the factor having been discovered in Rhesus monkeys. About 85 per cent of white Americans carry the Rh factor and are designated as "Rh positives." The other 15 per cent, lacking the Rh are the "Rh negatives."

Type Rh positive blood is given to Rh positive patients of the same blood group and Rh negatives receive only Rh negative blood.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Each pay-day the Hospital provides a check-cashing service for the benefit of employees. Those wishing to avail themselves of this service may do so between the hours of nine-thirty and eleven in the Harris Hall dining room. Accordingly, the Cashier's Office is no longer authorized to cash payroll checks.

DR. COOK ANNOUNCES MISS SHRADER'S RESIGNATION

Many of those attending the Graduating Exercises, Tuesday evening, May 16, were surprised to learn of the impending departure of Miss Margaret M. Shrader, Director of Nurses. Dr. Cook made the announcement as he was introducing Miss Shrader who spoke on the progress of the School of Nursing during the last six years.

Dr. Cook expressed his satisfaction over Miss Shrader's record of outstanding accomplishment at the Deaconess and Mr. Stanley O. MacMullen, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees stated his appreciation of her devoted attention to the manifold tasks for which she is responsible. The Director of Nurses at the Deaconess in addition to supervising the Nursing Service is also the Principal of the School of Nursing.

In April, 1948, THE PULSE contained a biographical sketch of Miss Shrader. The forthcoming issue of THE PULSE will feature the progress of the School of Nursing under her guidance.

Public Health Notes

ACCIDENTS CAN BE PREVENTED

Most accidents are due to thoughtlessness — yours or someone else's. When one occurs, it is because someone has failed to foresee that it could happen. If you "think ahead" of the possible hazards apt to confront you, you can "plan" how to avoid them. Here are some brief reminders:

1. FIRE — Are you familiar with the Fire Regulations in this hospital? All employees are responsible for this information.

2. GATCH HANDLES — Protruding "gatch handles" on beds should always be tucked in.

3. MOPS AND PAILS — Keep mops, pails and other equipment out of the passageways and see that they are safely stored.

4. LIFTING — Always get help when lifting an object that may be too heavy.

5. GLASS TUBES — When inserting glass tubes into rubber tubing always moisten the glass ends first and be sure to place a piece of gauze over glass tubing to protect your hands. Use a twisting motion.

News of the Nursing Departments

HARRIS HALL RENOVATIONS

(The following account is one of the best we have heard regarding the recent alterations to Harris Hall — Editors.)

An atmosphere of hustle and bustle has enveloped Harris Hall this Spring. Amid the slam-bang of the carpenters' hammers, the roar of the electric drill, and the gentle sloshing of the masons' trowels, we have viewed the construction of a new shower room equipped with a hair drier and two new laundry rooms. As for the showers, the unanimous opinion is simply stated, "Oh boy! They're just swell." The path in the corridor floor leading to the shower room has been worn considerably deeper and wider in the last few days since the official "shower" opening. As for the hair drier — well, one needs to get one's order in early to use it. You can easily guess that it is always in popular demand.

The tale is not yet told until the new laundries are discussed. Equipped with drying room, ironing boards that snuggle into the wall when not in use, and a Bendix machine, washday (which is every day) becomes a pleasure. Are we pleased? Well, I guess we are and very proud, too. Our thanks and gratitude to the Administration for making these improvements possible.

Incidently, have you heard about our "Demonstration Room?" In contrast to its appearance a few months ago, we now have a classroom with an appearance more pleasing to the eye as well as more conducive to learning. Newly painted walls, ceilings, floors, and appliances all contribute toward making this room look larger and brighter. Curtains and bedside units, which also are donning new coats of paint, add to its attractiveness.

We were happy to display our "home" at Open House, May 3. It was, indeed, a pleasure to know that so many of the Deaconess personnel were interested in us.

The annual tea for the Friends of the Deaconess Hospital denoted the official opening of shower rooms and laundries. We were especially pleased that Mrs. Grant, President of the "Friends," a familiar figure to us all, was able to be there. Faculty members and students met the ladies in the living room of Harris Hall, where tea and refreshments were served. The Misses Hope Brown and Helen Bousa, both members of the 1950 Graduating Class, poured, and tours through our home were led by the students. The afternoon was a great success and the warmth of the beautiful spring day was exceeded only by the warmth of the appreciation that we feel toward our many good friends.

By: Emily Howard '51 Sr.
Carol Carr '52 Jr.

* * *

Two Deaconess graduates, Mrs. Marjorie Phair Rowe (1929) and Mrs. Jessie Kay Wheeler (1919) have been recent patients on Deaconess III and Palmer IV respectively.

Miss Ruth Carlson, a Deaconess graduate, class of 1935, is now with the Nursing Department on Palmer IV.

Labor Relations Election Results

Last month Labor Relations elections were held in each department. The following employees were appointed as Representative and Alternate to the Labor Relations Committee:

Administration
Mrs. Armada Rabun
Mrs. Edythe Phelps

Admitting Office
Miss Gladys Stockwell
Miss Eleanor Giorgio

Blood Bank
Mrs. Winnifred MacDonald
Mrs. Madeline Lombardini

Chemistry
Mrs. Gloria Askwith
Miss Helen Kenneally

Dietary Dept. (Deaconess)
Mr. Gordon F. Wilson
Miss Neila Blanche

Dietary Dept. (Harris Hall)
Miss Isabel Smith
Mrs. Isabelle Riordan

Dietary Dept. (Palmer and Baker)
Mr. John Smith, Sr.
Miss Ethel Johnston

Engineering
Mr. Howard Lewis
William Murphy

Floor Duty Nurses
Miss Elizabeth Vaughan, (B3)
Miss Ruth Honnors, (B3)

Housekeeping
Mrs. Elizabeth McComiskey
Michael (Stanley M.) Alicki

Laundry
Mrs. Alice Skates
Mrs. Elvira Williams

Maintenance
Mr. Emil Soares
Mr. J. Albert Baker

Operating Rooms
Miss Barbara Harrison
Mrs. Venetia O'Day

Pathology and Radium
Miss Natalie Fossati
Mrs. Kathryn Haley

Pharmacy
Mr. Charles Schraub
Mr. John Quinn

Purchasing
Mr. Clifford Fisher
Miss Katherine O'Leary

Receptionists
Mrs. Esther Prince
Mrs. Temperance Abbott

Record Rooms
Miss Jeanette King
Miss Flora Eresian

Social Service
Miss Gladys R. Harrison
Mrs. Carolyn W. Turner

Solution Room
Miss Edna Whittemore
Miss Ruth Heithaus

Staff Nurses (Faculty)
Miss Virginia Diggdon, (D3N)
Miss Anne Borek, (D3S)

Volunteer Department
Miss Pamela Whitney

X-Ray
Miss Claire Couture
Mrs. Priscilla Oleson

DEPARTMENTAL NOTES

Weddings

Miss Marion Louise Pulsifer to Mr. Leon Forrest Scott at Kingston, Massachusetts, on May 7. The couple will reside at Elm Street, Kingston. Mrs. Scott was formerly at Palmer III.

Miss Bertha Maxine McLaughlin to Mr. Robert Studivan at Waltham, Massachusetts on April 28. Their residence is 158 South Street, Waltham.

Miss Eleanor Foss, Deaconess X-ray, to Mr. Robert Britton at the Pilgrim Congregational Church, Nashua, New Hampshire, on April 30. The couple will make their home at 46 Clewley Road, West Medford.

Births

A son, James, to Mr. and Mrs. James Davis (Marjorie Dizee Davis) on April 1, 1950. The Davises reside in Natick.

A son, Richard Peabody, to Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Moulton in April. The Moultons are living at 146 Burlington Street, Lexington. Mrs. Moulton (Peggy) was formerly a technician at Palmer.

A daughter, Jean Ann, to Mr. and Mrs. Harry Whitman (Marjorie Clinch Whitman) on April 9, 1950.

Pathology

Dr. William A. Meissner has returned from St. Louis, Missouri, where he gave a talk on tumors of the thyroid gland at the Homer G. Phillips Intern Association annual meeting. He also attended the meeting of the American Association of Pathologists and Bacteriologists in Madison, Wisconsin.

Record Room

Mrs. Annie (Maizie) May underwent an operation here at Deaconess on April 22. After recuperating in Connecticut, she resumed her duties here at the hospital on May 11.

Palmer X-ray

This month, Palmer X-ray welcomed a new therapy technician, Mrs. Grace Burke of Arlington, Massachusetts.

SUGGESTION BOX AWARD

The best suggestion of the month was submitted by Cliff Fisher of the Purchasing Department. For his suggestion regarding bulletin boards, he will receive an award of $10.00.

The many friends and associates in the Hospital of Miss Marjorie R. Pond join in extending deepest sympathy to her over the recent loss of her father.